

House File 2131 - Introduced

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BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating an Iowa institute for public policy.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 2E.1 Iowa institute for public
2 policy — board — executive director — funding.

3 1. The Iowa institute for public policy shall be established
4 as a nonprofit corporation under chapter 504 and qualifying
5 under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as
6 an organization exempt from taxation. The institute shall
7 provide policymakers with timely information, research, and
8 recommendations to assist policymakers in this state in making
9 informed judgments about important long-term issues facing the
10 state and to improve the effectiveness of government in the
11 state.

12 2. a. The board of directors of the Iowa institute for
13 public policy shall consist of twelve members as follows:

14 (1) Two state representatives, one appointed by the speaker
15 of the house of representatives and one by the minority leader
16 of the house, and two state senators, one appointed by the
17 majority leader of the senate and one by the minority leader
18 of the senate.

19 (2) Two members appointed by the governor.

20 (3) One member appointed by the president of the university
21 of northern Iowa.

22 (4) One member appointed by the president of the university
23 of Iowa.

24 (5) One member appointed by the president of Iowa state
25 university of science and technology.

26 (6) One member appointed by the Iowa association of
27 independent colleges and universities.

28 (7) One member appointed by the Iowa association of
29 community college presidents.

30 (8) The director of the legislative services agency.

31 b. One co-chairperson shall be a state representative
32 and one co-chairperson shall be a state senator. The
33 co-chairpersons shall be appointed by the board. Members of
34 the board other than the director of the legislative services
35 agency shall serve two-year terms from the date of their

1 appointment, and shall continue to serve until their successors
2 have been appointed. A member shall not serve more than two
3 consecutive terms. All members of the board serve at the
4 pleasure of the respective appointing authority, if any.

5 *c.* The board of directors shall meet at least quarterly, or
6 more frequently at the call of the co-chairpersons.

7 *d.* The board of directors shall adopt bylaws necessary for
8 the conduct of the business of the institute consistent with
9 this section.

10 3. The duties of the institute include but are not limited
11 to all of the following:

12 *a.* Initiate, sponsor, conduct, and publish research useful
13 to policymakers.

14 *b.* Organize conferences or other meetings on matters of
15 common interest to policymakers, academic experts, and other
16 stakeholders.

17 *c.* Conduct reviews and evaluations of state programs
18 and policies for the purpose of enhancing their long-term
19 effectiveness.

20 *d.* Provide technical and scientific assistance to
21 policymakers in connection with long-term issues facing the
22 state.

23 *e.* Strengthen the links between state government and Iowa's
24 academic, educational, and research communities in the interest
25 of more informed policymaking and more relevant academic
26 research.

27 4. *a.* The board shall employ an executive director who
28 shall serve as the chief executive officer for the institute.
29 The executive director shall be responsible for all operations
30 of the institute, including the hiring and supervision of
31 staff which may be authorized by the board, contracting with
32 university and other researchers, managing projects, and
33 communicating with the public and other stakeholders, including
34 the legislative council and legislative staff.

35 *b.* A person employed by the institute is a state employee

1 for purposes of the Iowa public employees' retirement system,
2 state health and dental plans, other state employee benefits
3 plans, and chapter 669. Chapters 8, 8A, and 20, and other
4 provisions of law that relate to requirements or restrictions
5 dealing with state personnel or state funds, do not apply to
6 the institute or any employees of the board or the institute,
7 except to the extent provided in this chapter.

8 5. The institute shall be funded by appropriations by the
9 general assembly and from other public sources which may be
10 approved by the board. The institute shall not accept private
11 funding, except long-term funding commitments of three years or
12 more from private foundations or nonprofit organizations solely
13 for the purpose of supporting the institute's employment of
14 students attending a postsecondary educational institution in
15 Iowa, which funding shall not be conditioned by the institute
16 or the entity providing the funds to support any specific
17 research project or any other program undertaken by the
18 institute. The institute may employ such students directly
19 or may support the employment of students by contract. The
20 institute may impose registration fees on participants for
21 conferences it organizes and may retain the proceeds of such
22 registration fees.

23 Sec. 2. REPEAL. Section 7D.15, Code 2024, is repealed.

24 EXPLANATION

25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
26 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

27 This bill provides for the establishment of the Iowa
28 institute for public policy as a nonprofit corporation for
29 the purpose of assisting policymakers in this state in making
30 informed judgments about important long-term issues facing the
31 state and to improve the effectiveness of government in the
32 state.

33 The institute is governed by a 12-member board of
34 directors. The membership of the board consists of two state
35 representatives, two state senators, two members appointed

1 by the governor, one member appointed by the president of
2 the university of northern Iowa, one member appointed by the
3 president of the university of Iowa, one member appointed
4 by the president of Iowa state university of science and
5 technology, one member appointed by the Iowa association of
6 independent colleges and universities, one member appointed by
7 the Iowa association of community college presidents, and the
8 director of the legislative services agency. The bill provides
9 that the board shall appoint co-chairpersons of the board, one
10 who is a state representative and one who is a state senator.
11 The bill provides for meetings of the board and for adoption of
12 bylaws for the board and the institute.

13 The bill provides that the board shall employ an executive
14 director who shall be responsible for all operations of the
15 institute, including the hiring and supervision of staff. The
16 bill provides that employees of the institute or board shall
17 be considered state employees for purposes of the Iowa public
18 employees' retirement system, state health and dental plans,
19 and other state employee benefits plans and the Iowa tort
20 claims Act. The bill also provides that the institute may be
21 funded from public and private sources.

22 Code section 7D.15, requiring the executive council to
23 establish a public policy research foundation, is repealed.